

MINUTES
Town of North
June 12, 2006
North Town Hall

Mayor Jeffcoat called the regular meeting of Council to order at 7:00 p.m. and declared a quorum. Present were Council members Drew, Binyard, Lane and Gleaton were in attendance. Also in attendance were Mark Fallaw, Chief of Police, and Beth Kincaid, Town Clerk.

Mayor Jeffcoat welcomed visitors.

The Minutes from the May 8, 2006 meeting were approved as presented.

Special Presentations:

Mayor Jeffcoat presented Mrs. Harry Clinton (Barbara Lou) Graves with a plaque in appreciation for her kind donation of the sound system to the Council/Municipal Court chambers in memory of her husband, Harry Clinton Graves, for his years of dedicated service to the Town of North. Mrs. Graves thanked Council and said her husband loved North and that it was a privilege to donate the sound system to the Town in his honor.

Mayor Jeffcoat presented Dr. Paul Owen a plaque recognizing him and his wife, Maxine Owen, for contributions to the Town and their kind donation of property located at 9210 North Road to the Town.

Both plaques will be displayed in the Council Chambers

Mayor Jeffcoat participated in Orangeburg County's annual celebration held at the fairgrounds on June 1, 2006. All of the towns were presented an engraved award recognizing their contributions as part of the "Dream Team." Jeffcoat put together a display of United Methodist First Responder/Disaster Team and the North Airfield. The display was featured in the North Trade Journal.

Highway 321 Report:

Work on Highway 321 is getting closer in to Town. Mr. Jeffcoat noted the work seems to be moving a little faster

Water/Sewer Report:

Mr. Jeffcoat presented the water sewer report for May 2006, (copy attached). He noted that the potholes are being repaired professionally and should be complete this week.

Police Report:

Chief Fallaw reviewed the North Police report (copy attached). Fallaw noted an increase in assistance calls and attributes this partly to school being out. Police made 35 arrests for the month.

Fallaw updated Council the damaged police car that suffered a deer strike when Officer Bird was responding to a call. He reported the car can be repaired. He asked that Council consider the purchase of two (2) brush guards as a preventative measure, as they can protect a vehicle from such extensive damage. He has talked with other police departments and has received positive reports on the brush guards. The cost is \$450 each installed. Mrs. Lane recommended the purchase of the brush guards be considered in the new budget.

Fallaw reported that Reserve Officer Combs is doing well in training and Angie Eklund is doing a good job with her police administrative duties.

Old Business:

- Mayor Jeffcoat reviewed the financial statement (attached).
- Jeffcoat gave an update on the water/sewer utility billing software the Town is considering, and are in processing of reviewing the associated costs. Software purchase, installation, and training of staff would be approximately \$3200, with a monthly maintenance fee of \$275.00. Consideration of the purchase will be presented at the July meeting.
- Jeffcoat also reported that we are still checking into health insurance premium figures for the employees, and should have more information at the July meeting.

- The Town's audit is incomplete. Some of the files were being held by SLED and files were just returned last week and the audit is progressing.
- Jeffcoat reported work is being done on the abandoned property ordinance. One house is already on the ground and that lot is being cleared. Regarding another house, the items inside are being removed and demolition is planned after that. It was the advice of the Town Attorney to follow Swansea's lead on enforcement of the ordinance, charging individuals \$1,000 a day until the ordinance specifications are met. We will look into this further.

New Business:

The Mayor asked Council's consideration of the purchase of a 3x4 outdoor community bulletin board to be placed on the front of the Town for display of news items concerning the Town. The motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Research continues on the purchase of water/sewer software. The software cost is approximately \$3,100 (includes installation). Software maintenance and remote back up costs approximately \$265.00 a month. Jeffcoat noted this is close to what the Town pays now for the current software. A final decision is expected in July.

Mayor's Report:

Jeffcoat announced his plans to attend the Annual Municipal Association Conference in Hilton Head July 27-29. He said meetings such as these are important for Council to attend because of the new information presented and the opportunities for networking.

The Community of Character trait for June is "Respect". The Mayor stated that it is important for Councils to participate in the Community of Character program and he urged everyone to do so.

The Planning Commission (Chairwoman Barbara Jeffcoat and members Charles Guy and Leolis Jamison) as well as the Mayor and a few others, attended a training session in Denmark, SC.

Jeffcoat reported he has been talking with Nivens & Nivens Engineering Firm and they had suggested asking the Railroad permission to put an amusement park behind the Town Hall building. Nivens & Nivens has been instrumental in obtaining the \$200,000 grant for the purpose of building a park.

Council approved DHEC's recommendation to fill an unused well at the Sewer Plant with cement. A storage shed for tractors and other equipment could be built inside the fence. Gleaton noted the well was originally dug for the Town, but was found to contain radon, and was never used. Lane added that this action would be funded by 1% money.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A concerned citizen encouraged Council not to delay in purchasing brush guards for the police vehicles. She stated if the policeman who hit the deer had been injured, that would have been a tragedy. Fallaw added that an independent investigation of the accident indicated Officer Bird was not at fault. The citizen further requested that a contingency fund be built into the new budget for unexpected items such as the brush guards.

A concerned citizen addressed the potential plan to put an amusement park behind Town Hall. She said there are the memorial trees to consider, and questioned whether it would be a good idea to have a park so close to Town Hall. She recommended a piece of land behind the post office. No decision was made.

A citizen asked about the Town Clock and where it would be placed. Mayor Jeffcoat reported it is still in storage. There is a Grants meeting in Columbia on June 26 concerning the \$200,000 grant and when it can be used. Hopefully, part of that money will be used to place the new clock.

Ms. Binyard publicly thanked Mayor Jeffcoat for attending Ebenezer Baptist Church to celebrate and welcome their new pastor, The Reverend Michael Buxton

There being no further business, Mayor Jeffcoat adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Reverend Wright closed the meeting in prayer.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, July 10, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Beth Kincaid

APPROVED: July 10, 2006

Mayor Earl Jeffocat: _____

Council Members:

Paul Drew: _____

Rose Binyard: _____

Harriet Lane: _____

Aubrey Gleaton: _____